

THE INVENTOR'S POCKET COMPANION.

INTRODUCTION.

IN submitting this pamphlet to Inventors, we may be permitted to say, by way of introduction, a few words in reference to ourselves. We have had practical education as machinists in the workshop, theoretical instruction in mechanics and the sciences pertaining thereto, and have had ten years experience as Draughtsmen and Solicitors of Patents. Our practice as Solicitors of Patents is by far the largest in Western Canada, and one of, if not the most, extensive in the Dominion.

Our social connections among the leading men, merchants and capitalists of Canada, together with our extended relations as engineers and dealers in machinery with railways and manufactories, afford to those who secure their inventions through our office opportunities for selling their patents which no other like firm in Canada can extend. We conduct applications direct with all the patent offices, except examinations and special cases, for which we have qualified and competent representatives at Ottawa, Washington, London, Paris, &c., who supervise contested and other cases when necessary.

In conclusion, it is scarcely necessary to add that all communications entrusted to us are considered in the strictest sense confidential, and that we are well and favorably known, both personally and professionally, the gentlemen we refer to by permission are sufficient guarantee, while the large and increasing practice we enjoy is complete evidence that all work entrusted to us is thoroughly and conscientiously attended to.

HOW TO INVENT.

It would be impossible for us to literally teach how to invent, for invention, like poetry, painting, and sculpture, is a gift often rising to the height of genius, but still a few simple hints may be of value, as many of our most useful and remunerative inventions have been produced by minds that lay no claim to kinship with genius. Attention, careful and thoughtful attention to what is going on in the world about one, will soon enable the observer to discover many little gaps, suggesting some small and practical improvement, which, if cheaply and effectually carried out, will fill a general want, and thus command an extensive sale. To be pecuniarily successful, an invention must supply a want, and unless immeasurably superior, be cheaper than the article it is intended to supersede, and above all things it should be simple. Simplicity in an article cheapens its cost, makes improvement on it more difficult, and tends to increase its popularity, being more easily understood and less liable to get out of order. Many people seem to think that a complicated arrangement of levers, springs and wheels denotes a true invention, and in fact the sole aim of some inventors seems to be to see how complicated and intricate a machine they can produce. A greater mistake was never